**Ban of carrying foodstuff**

†1731. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether carrying food in all the express trains has been proposed to be banned;

(b) whether the amount for food and water has been proposed to be charged at the time of getting reservation itself; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Charges for food and bottled water have been included in ticket fare of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains only.

**Fines on travelling without tickets**

1732. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the enhanced rates of fines on travelling without tickets in the railway; and

(b) the amount of such fines collected in Northern Railways, North-Eastern Railways and North Frontier Railways during the last two years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The minimum penalty for ticketless/irregular travel on trains has been increased from Rupees. 50/- to Rupees 250/- with effect from 1st July, 2004.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Since the Act came into force with effect from 1.7.2004, figures relating to the enhanced penalty are available only for the period from July, 2004 to October, 2004 and the same are as under:—

| Railway | Amount of fare and penalty realised from ticketless/irregular passengers (Rupees in crores) |
|---|---|
| Northern | 12.30 |
| North Eastern | 2.60 |
| Northeast Frontier | 1.26 |

**Price of structural steel**

1733. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the recent past a Committee was constituted to study the factors responsible for abnormal hike in the prices of structural steel used in Railways;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee to deal with the contracts for procuring structural steel for the use of railways; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on the recommendations of this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A Committee was constituted in the Ministry of Railways to examine the issue of abnormal hike in the price of steel used in Railways. The Committee has examined the issue of abnormal hike in the price of steel in the recent past and submitted its recommendations regarding dealing with present and future contracts. The recommendations are under examination in the Ministry.